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Marie B. Williams
President

July 15, 2002

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Docket #116

Ms. Sara Kyle, Chairman
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243-0505

Dear Ms. Kyle:

I am writing in support of BellSouth's application to enter the long distance market in Tennessee. There are a number of supporting reasons, however, I find the more meaningful to encompass both fairness to the customer(s) and BellSouth's local commitment to the economic well being of the state.

BellSouth is the only local company prohibited from offering its customers the opportunity to have a single carrier for all telecommunication needs. All other local companies are allowed to provide both local and long distance service. I personally would prefer the convenience of one comprehensive provider with the reputation of service BellSouth has historically provided.

Additionally, I travel and work extensively throughout the U.S. BellSouth's communications network is second-to-none. Not only has BellSouth been recognized multiple years for outstanding customer service by J.D. Powers but they also provide significant support to both government and business entities. Their services and infrastructure do much to support sustainable economic development. BellSouth is an exemplary corporate citizen.

Seven other state regulatory bodies have already recognized that BellSouth has met all the requirements outlined by Congress to enter the long distance market. Shouldn't Tennessee be next?

Sincerely,

Marie B. Williams

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SARA KYLE, COMMISSIONER
TN PUBLIC SERVICE COMM.